

14 March 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Administration

SUBJECT : Agency Movie Film Footage

SUMMARY: Media requests for still photographs of the Headquarters building are regularly honored by the Assistant to the Director. However, requests for permission to shoot motion pictures of the building have been refused, primarily on security grounds (license plates, covert employees, visitors, etc).

Resources are available within the Agency to produce its own file footage and copies can be made available, at cost, to future requestors.

BACKGROUND: In the past several months, two formal requests have been received by the Assistant to the Director for permission to allow major film organizations into the Headquarters compound to shoot stock footage of the entrance to the building.

The requests were coordinated with the Office of Security and were both denied.

In the first instance, Paramount Pictures was shooting a television series, "Washington," based on the John Ehrlichman book. The company wanted to photograph actor Cliff Robertson (portraying a DCI) exiting a limousine in front of the building and entering the lobby. This would have necessitated a crew of 25 to 30 persons, six to eight vehicles, and "about two hours."

The second request came from MGM. They requested stills of a CIA executive's office so they could duplicate it on a movie set. They also asked for stock footage of the front of the building to be used as an "establishing shot." This is about 50 feet of film, usually running about 15 to 20 seconds, over which the letters CIA are printed, and establishes the locale of the next scene.

MGM was advised that commercial television crews had been allowed into the compound for background stock footage last year. They said they would check out the availability of that film before formalizing their own request.

An Agency photographer took stills of the "executive offices" (Room 1-F-04) and these were sent to MGM. The television footage was examined by MGM, but was considered unsuitable due to film size.

They then asked for permission to have a film crew of two men to photograph the CIA building entrance in 35mm color film. They were willing to do it on a weekend and also have the Agency check the footage before its release.

Because of the precedent established with Paramount, the request was turned down.

A counter proposal was then suggested by John Horton, the MGM representative: he would make the 35mm camera equipment and film available to the Agency if we would shoot the footage. In return, he would be provided a print of the footage. CIA would, of course, keep the master for duplicate prints for any subsequent requests.

DISCUSSION: There are obvious advantages to owning the master copy of stock footage of the building. Similar requests will continue to come in from organizations requesting permission to photograph what is, in essence, a public building.

We supply stills; why not film? By having stock footage available to requestors, either free or at cost, we can justify refusal to permit crews into the compound.

On a take-it-or-leave-it basis, most organizations will take the footage we supply. In the long run, it would be less expensive than if they shot it themselves.

RECOMMENDATION: Have Agency photographic crews shoot appropriate file footage, in 35mm color, and make duplicate prints available to requestors.



Andrew T. Falkiewicz
Assistant to the Director

STAT

STAT
STAT

O/A/DC 
Distribution: Orig-addressee
1- 
1-CM
1-Chrono

UNCLASSIFIED

INTERNAL USE ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Movie Script Satirizing Agency

FROM:

Office of the Chief, DCD
912 Key Bldg.

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

3 December 1974

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1. Assistant to the Director
1F-04 Hqs.

Attached for your information.
A copy has also been sent to
C/LA Division/DDO.

2. *ew*

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.